

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified double stranded short interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA) molecule comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand, wherein:
  - a) each strand of said siRNA molecule is ~~about~~ 18 to ~~about~~ 27 nucleotides in length;
  - b) the antisense strand of said siRNA molecule comprises about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that are complementary to HCV RNA nucleotide sequence comprising corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1706; and ~~are also complementary to~~ the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand;
  - c) the sense strand of the siRNA molecule comprises a portion of the HCV RNA nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
  - d) ~~the siRNA molecule comprises at least one 2'-O-methyl or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotide~~ about 100 percent of the nucleotide positions in one or both strands of the siRNA molecule are chemically modified and the antisense strand of the siRNA molecule comprises about 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more 2'-O-methyl nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at ~~a~~ the 5'-end, ~~a~~ the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Previously Presented) The siRNA molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in ~~said~~ the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously Presented) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense strand.
21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
33. (Canceled)
34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
37. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
38. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in ~~said~~ the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

39. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in ~~said~~ the antisense strand comprise 2'-deoxy-purine nucleotides.